

I thank my friends Prof. Owen for allowing me to record the specimen from Esher, and Mr. Allen for confirming my identification. — J. COOTER, Department of Natural History, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG.

ABUNDANCE OF ECTOEDEMA SUBBIMACULELLA HAW. (LEP.: NEPTICULIDAE) IN KENT. — During the field meeting of the British Entomological and Natural History Society to Northwood Hill, Halstow, Kent, on the 25th June, 1977, the leader, Mr. M. J. Newcombe and I, happened upon some large oak trees on the higher ground of the reserve, and inspecting a trunk of one, observed several Neps thereon. We saw more, then more, and quickly became aware that the trunk was covered with Neps. Another tree nearby and several others were inspected, and moths in the same profusion found on them also, many *in cop*.

After the excitement of seeing so many, it was decided to do some counting and get a rough estimate of the numbers present. We each counted the moths on a strip of bark approx. one inch wide by six feet in height. Amazingly we both arrived at a figure of twenty-two moths! This gave us around 250 specimens on an area of six square feet. A slight breeze was blowing at the time and the greater proportion of Neps were on the lee side of the trunks. Although we only looked at about seven trees with large numbers of Neps on them, there were many more that could have, and may have had, equally large numbers on their trunks. A genitalia preparation was made of several specimens taken at the time, confirming the identity of the species. — E. S. BRADFORD, 6 Maple Court, Drayton Road, Borehamwood, Herts.

THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY IN SOMERSET IN 1977. — One was seen by J. K. Comrie in the North Petherton area on 17th April; it was basking in the sun on some shale. — B. W. MOORE, Church Cottage, Batheaston, Bath.

OTIORHYNCHUS LIGNEUS OL. (COL.: CURCULIONIDAE) IN PLENTY UNDER A STREET LAMP, ETC. — Contrary to expectation, perhaps, some at least of the largely nocturnal and flightless weevils of the above genus, which pass the daytime under plants or other ground cover, prove to be strongly attracted by artificial light. Their inability to fly, and the resulting unlikelihood of their often entering most types of illuminated trap, doubtless causes this liking to be seldom observed; but an incident that lately occurred to me shows it clearly.

On the night of 14th August, happening to pass under a street lamp (m.v.) beside a path near here, I paused to glance at a portion of low rough concrete wall below it, and was surprised to see—mostly along the top—rather numerous specimens of one of the smaller Otiorhynchi basking in its rays; some motionless, others moving slowly about. A sample brought home showed them to be, as I suspected, *O. ligneus*

Ol.—in this area a species very rare to me up to that time. Among them was a single *O. sulcatus* F., a much larger species quite common here. In contrast, the vertical faces of the wall on both sides, ill-lit or in deep shadow, had no weevils on them as far as I could see, and the numbers about the top thinned out rapidly to zero well away from the lamp; indicating that the light from it was indeed the real attraction. All or most had probably ascended the wall on its inner side which bounds some plain grass-land, since on its outer side the pavement comes right up to the foot of the wall with only a few tufts of grass, etc., at its very edge. Among the beetles on the wall a number of earwigs (*Forficula auricularia* L.) were interspersed—this too familiar insect also being fond of artificial light (and, I might add, present here this season in such prodigious quantity as to constitute a veritable plague). The night was windless and overcast.

Casual specimens of *Otiorhynchus* of various species are not seldom found indoors during the summer at least. Of these, some may be brought in with plant roots or garden soil, but I suspect that others gain access by climbing house walls at night and entering windows when open with a bright light showing. *O. rugosostriatus* Goeze has repeatedly appeared indoors at sundry times and places—much oftener than mere chance could account for\*—and *O. sulcatus* less frequently, though a far commoner species.

For a London suburb, the genus is quite respectably represented in this district. Besides *sulcatus* and *ligneus* we have *rugosostriatus*, *singularis* L. (in part diurnal), *ovatus* L., and *raucus* F.—the latter being the rarest with one example hitherto, and all the others but *ligneus* occurring in my small garden. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London, SE7 8QG.

\* See, for instance, J. M. Chalmers-Hunt, 1960, *Ent. Rec.*, 72: 72. Just lately this weevil has twice dropped out of roses I had brought in from the garden—doubtless a source of some of the specimens found indoors.

THE STATUS OF THE PURPLE EMPEROR (*APATURA IRIS* LINN.) IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT. — Goater (*The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 1974) gives the exact date for only one Purple Emperor on the island, a female in Parkhurst Forest on 2nd August, 1890. From Morey (*A Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight*, 1909) he quotes four further localities but without specific data, and adds that he has no recent record.

Since this species has been extending its range on the mainland for several years, the possibility that it may breed on the island becomes ever more likely, even if it has not done so hitherto. It seems worth while, therefore, to publish recent sightings, if only to alert visiting lepidopterists to the existence of the problem.

Mr. Andy Keay, Warden of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust Reserve at Stag Copse, near Newport,